

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 30, wherein said anaerobic culture conditions comprise an atmosphere containing less than or equal to 1 v/v% oxygen, based on the total volume of atmosphere.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said atmosphere contains less than 0.1 v/v% oxygen, based on the total volume of atmosphere.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said ~~virally-~~infected eukaryotic cells are retrovirally-infected mammalian cells.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said mammalian cells are human cells.
8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said eukaryotic cells ~~is a~~ are mammalian, avian or fish cells.
9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said eukaryotic cells ~~is an~~ are endothelial cells.
10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said eukaryotic cells are mammalian brain capillary endothelial cells.
11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said ~~virally infected cell is~~ eukaryotic cells are infected with a virus selected from the group consisting of the murine L-cell virus, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Ableson murine leukemia virus and Maloney murine leukemia virus.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said virus is the murine L-cell virus.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said culturing step is carried out at a temperature between about ~~20~~ 20° and about 50°C.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, wherein said culturing step is carried out at a temperature of about 37°C.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~15~~ 30, wherein said ~~virally-infected eukaryotic cells~~ is a ~~are~~ human brain capillary endothelial cells infected with the murine L-cell virus.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4 30, further comprising filtering the cells cultured in step ~~(a)~~ (d) prior to said aerobic culturing step ~~(b)~~ (e).

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, comprising filtering the cells through a 0.1 to 0.8 µm filter.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said filter is 0.1 to 0.45 µm.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said filter is 0.22 µm.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A method comprising:

(a) preparing a culture of virally-infected eukaryotic cells that is free of any overt microbiological contamination, in a sterile eukaryotic cell culture medium,

(b) subjecting the culture of step (a) to an anaerobic culturing phase under sterile conditions wherein the culture is subjected to anaerobic culturing conditions corresponding to an atmosphere of 0-2 v/v % oxygen, for a period of time between about 18 and 24 hours, followed by

(c) exposing the culture of step (b) under sterile conditions to oxygen conditions corresponding to an atmosphere containing greater than 2 v/v % oxygen, followed by

(d) subjecting the culture of step (c) to a second anaerobic culturing phase under sterile conditions wherein the culture is subjected to anaerobic culturing conditions corresponding to an atmosphere of 0-2 v/v % oxygen, for a period of time of between about 18 and 24 hours, followed by

(e) subjecting the culture of step (d) to a second aerobic culturing phase under sterile culturing conditions and corresponding to an atmosphere containing greater than about 2 v/v % oxygen in a sterile bacterial cell culture medium, and

(f) identifying in the culture of step (e) a cell that is identifiable as a bacteria, and contains a eukaryotic and/or viral gene.

31. (New) A pleiomorphic cell, characterized by

(a) being a non-transgenic cell;

(b) being derived from a eukaryotic cell by a process comprising the steps of

(i) preparing a culture of virally-infected eukaryotic cells that is free of any overt microbiological contamination, in a sterile, eukaryotic cell culture medium,

(ii) subjecting the culture of step (i) to an anaerobic culturing phase under sterile conditions wherein the culture is subjected to anaerobic culturing conditions corresponding to an atmosphere of 0-2 v/v % oxygen, for a period of time between about 18 and 24 hours, followed by

(iii) exposing the culture of step (ii) under sterile conditions to oxygen conditions corresponding to an atmosphere containing greater than 2 v/v % oxygen, followed by

(iv) subjecting the culture of step (iii) to a second anaerobic culturing phase under sterile conditions wherein the culture is subjected to anaerobic culturing conditions corresponding to an atmosphere of 0-2 v/v % oxygen, for a period of time of between about 18 and 24 hours, followed by

(v) subjecting the culture of step (iv) to a second culturing phase under sterile culturing conditions and corresponding to an atmosphere containing greater than about 2 v/v % oxygen in a sterile bacterial cell culture medium;

(c) containing at least one gene evolved from the genome of said eukaryotic cell.